

Our Classroom Expectations

What We Expect in Our Classroom

The rules and procedures in our classroom are here to help keep us safe, focused, and ready to learn. By following them, we can have a fun and successful year together. These rules aren't hard, and they're meant to help everyone do their best. If you're ever unsure about a rule or why it's there, just ask! We're all here to learn together.

Our Class Expectations

1. **Respect Yourself and Others**
 - Always treat yourself and everyone in our class with kindness and respect.
 - **Listen when others are talking:** You should always respect if someone is speaking by raising a quiet hand if you need to share. We do not tolerate blurting or speaking while others are speaking.
 - **No side conversations:** Side conversations should happen at their appropriate times to make sure everyone has the chance to feel heard.
 - *Don't touch or use things that aren't yours* (like other people's desks, Chromebooks, headphones, books, or belongings).
 - Please clean up after yourself—our classroom is a shared space!
2. **Always Try Your Best**
 - Do your best on everything you do, even if it's challenging.
 - Focus on learning and understanding, not just finishing **quickly**.
 - Take pride in the quality of your work.
3. **Be Ready for Class**
 - Come to class with all the things you need, like your homework folder, pencil, and backpack.
 - Be ready to jump into learning right away.
4. **Listen and Follow Directions**
 - When directions are given, try your best to follow them right away. If you're not sure about something, just ask!
 - It's important to ensure you understand to stay on track.
5. **Join In and Ask Questions**
 - Be part of our class discussions and activities—your ideas matter!
 - If you're confused or curious about something, don't be afraid to ask. *Chances are, someone else is wondering the same thing.*
 - Keep talking to me if you need help, whether in class or after.
6. **Help Keep Our Classroom Positive**
 - We all need to work together to keep our classroom a happy place where everyone can learn.
 - Use our class time wisely and avoid things that can distract you or others.
 - Try to arrive on time and stay in class unless it's really necessary to leave.
7. **Take Responsibility for What You Do**
 - If you break a rule, be honest about it. Everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay to admit when you've done something wrong.
 - Make sure you catch up on any missed assignments. It's your job to stay on top of your work.
 - If you choose to break the rules, there may be consequences, like losing some privileges or having to fix the problem during recess.

Our Class Rules

1. **Electronic Devices**

- Cell phones and other gadgets should be off and put away unless I say it's okay to use them. If I see or hear your phone, I'll hold onto it until the end of the day. If it happens again, there will be more serious consequences.
- If you refuse to hand over your device, it will be treated as not following directions, and there will be a call home or another consequence like detention for defiance.

2. **Food and Drinks**

- You can bring water to class. If there's a spill, clean it up right away.
- **Other food or drinks aren't allowed unless you have a special reason.**

3. **Be on Time and Ready**

- Be in your seat and ready to learn when class starts. Begin the "Do Now" activity as soon as you arrive.
- Stay focused and ready to participate.

4. **End of Class**

- Stay in your seat until I dismiss you. Please don't line up at the door before it's time to go.
- We will walk together to our dismissal area unless you are signed up for the After-School Program, in which case we will drop you off.

5. **Be Honest and Do Your Own Work**

- Cheating or copying someone else's work is not allowed. If you cheat, you'll get a zero on that assignment, and I'll let your parents and the school know.
- Always give credit when you use someone else's ideas in your work.

6. **Use Kind Words**

- Always use language that is kind and respectful. We don't use hurtful or offensive words in our classroom.

7. **Do Your Best and Turn Work In on Time**

- Your work should show how much effort you've put in. It should be neat and well done.
- All your work should follow AVID guidelines and should always include your name, number, date, and subject.
- Big projects and essays should be typed and look professional. If you don't have a computer or Wi-Fi, let me know so I can have the school get you one.

What Happens if You Break the Rules

1. **First Step:** I'll give you a gentle reminder (a verbal warning) to help you get back on track.
2. **Second Step:** If the behavior continues, you'll need to fix the problem during school time. This might mean spending time during recess or another part of the day to make up work or reflect on your actions.
3. **Third Step:** If the behavior still doesn't improve, I'll inform your parents or guardians so they can talk to you at home.
4. **Fourth Step:** As a last resort, if things still aren't working, I'll refer the situation to the school administration for further action.

I agree and understand the rules and expectations in Ms. Ballesteros' classroom.

Name and Number: _____

Date: _____

This agreement is to stay in your binder and be a constant reminder for you throughout the school year.